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Local

Commissioner tells concerns about canyon pipe

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Herald Staff Writer

County commissioner Brent Morris is voicing serious questions concerning use of the Olmstead flow line in Provo Canyon (green pipe) and use of \$10 million for construction of the flow line under the landslide area.

Morris has directed three letters to public officials concerning the use of \$10 in ad valorem taxes of 12 counties to tunnel under the slide, when the project will benefit only Salt Lake County.

Morris directed the letters Tuesday to Don Christiansen, general manager of the Central Utah Water

Conservancy District; R. Paul Van Dam, Utah attorney general; and Roland G. Robison, regional director of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Upper Colorado regional office.

Morris said he has concerns he feels have been ignored or not addressed in the CUWCD attempt to drill a tunnel through the slide area in Provo Canyon.

He asked Van Dam to intervene in the matter because his office has multi-county jurisdiction, but the tunnel financed by the 12-county CUWCD will benefit only Salt Lake County.

The issues he raises are as fol-

lows:

- Congress has not approved this project for the Central Utah Project.

- Ad valorem taxes from all 12 counties in the Central Utah Water Conservancy District are being used to pay for the project, but only Salt Lake County will benefit from it.

- Funds used for the project should be paid back by the sole beneficiary, Salt Lake County.

- The proper NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) process has been skirted. The bid and public hearing process have gone forward without the Environ-

mental Impact Statement being in place.

- To review the drill hole findings, one has to be referred to the RFP (request for proposal) prepared by CH2M Hill (engineering firm). The RFP was done in order for bids to be received for the tunnel.

- The order of events is improper. Public were first due Aug. 16, 1989; the invitation to bid on the project was presented on Aug. 15, 1988; the public comment period was extended to Sept. 8, 1989, and the bid opening is set for Sept. 11, 1989.

- The EIS did not address the

severe impact this proposal will have on the Provo River system and Utah Lake.

- Non-consumptive water rights (in the green snake) have been purchased from rights from Utah Power and Light, and the Bureau of Reclamation plans to store this water in the Jordanelle Dam.

- Historically, this non-consumptive water, after it was used to generate power, has been returned to the Provo River and Utah Lake water systems. If this water is converted for M&I use and sent to Salt Lake County, then Provo Canyon and Utah Lake will be irreversibly impacted.

- There is little doubt that eventually the district will try to convert this non-consumptive water into municipal and industrial (M&I) water.

- If the water is stored in Jordanelle Dam, it no longer will be contributing to the Provo River and Utah Lake water systems.

- The EIS did not propose alternative water sources. Salt Lake County could seek other sources for its water needs instead of negatively impacting the water ecosystems of Utah County.

"Time is of the essence," he wrote, "but no one appears to be overseeing the process."

BUSINESS **briefly**

Boise-based firm will build Provo Canyon water tunnel

PROVO — Morrison Knudsen Corp., based in Boise, said it has received an \$11 million contract for construction of a water tunnel in Provo Canyon.

The Olmsted Tunnel project for the Central Utah Water Conservancy District involves replacement of one mile of an existing 8.5-foot-diameter pipeline with a 10.5-foot-diameter tunnel. Another 4,700-foot reach of the tunnel will be driven in rock. In addition, a 12-foot-diameter, 340-foot-long access tunnel, or adit, will be driven in rock.

About 900 feet of the tunnel and shaft will be lined with steel and the remainder with reinforced concrete.

The tunnel, upon completion, will be connected with an existing pipeline.

Work will begin immediately, with completion expected in mid-1991.